

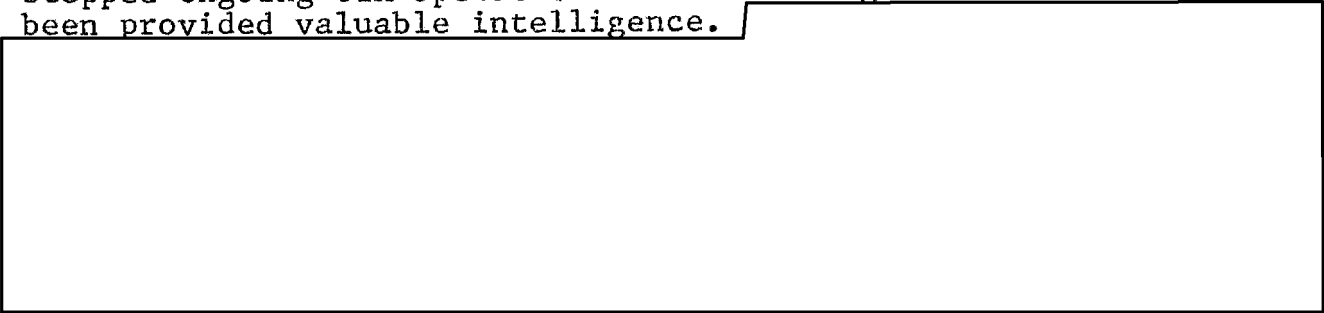
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SUBJECT: Unauthorized Disclosure Investigations at CIA

Historical Perspective

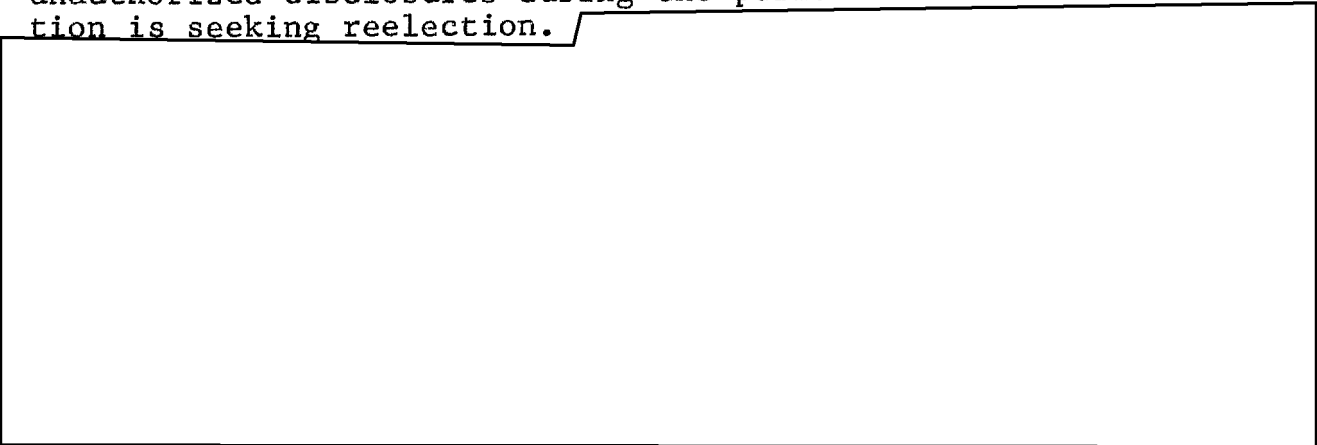
Unauthorized disclosure of CIA classified information is one of the most frustrating and serious security problems the Agency has ever faced. The United States media ^{have} ~~has~~ done irreparable harm in publishing CIA information. Not only have disclosures stopped ongoing CIA operations but hostile governments have also been provided valuable intelligence.



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Who is Responsible

A review of unauthorized disclosures over the past nine years indicates that over 95 percent appear to have been perpetrated for political purposes. It is all too easy for a government official to advance a particular cause or viewpoint by a leak. An interesting phenomenon has been the increase in unauthorized disclosures during the period when an administration is seeking reelection.



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Problem of Official Unauthorized Disclosures

It is widely recognized that the President of the United States, as the ultimate classifying and declassifying officer in the federal government, can and does declassify information in

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the national interest. Disseminations of this nature are readily identifiable and cause no concern. The problem lies in the desire of some officials to have policy objectives and goals provided to the media in such a way that it conceals their origin. There is a widely held belief that information released by the government has less impact and is more suspect than information which a reporter purportedly works hard to uncover. (S)

Unauthorized Disclosure Investigative Procedures

The Office of Security is responsible for investigating unauthorized disclosures within CIA. Suspect newspaper articles and news broadcasts that could contain classified information are reviewed daily.

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SECOM's Role

The Office of Security investigator handling CIA unauthorized disclosures is also the CIA representative on the Unauthorized Disclosure Subcommittee of the Director of Central Intelligence Security Committee (SECOM). The Chief of the Office of General Counsel's Administrative Law Division is the chairman of the subcommittee.

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To date the CIA, FBI, and National Security Agency have designated personnel for the unauthorized disclosure problem.

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What Is Needed

A system should be instituted within the Intelligence Community requiring all agencies to secure permission from the originating agency before providing classified information to the media. (S)

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As there is no specific federal statute that prohibits federal employees from providing classified information to the media, the Department of Justice and the FBI have indicated that prosecutions in this regard are difficult. What is needed are specific federal statutes which make it a criminal offense to provide classified United States Government information to a member of the media. (S)

The Department of Defense should create a number of positions within their Counterintelligence and Investigative Programs Office to investigate unauthorized disclosures on a full-time basis. (S)

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